

Habitat Study Group Notes: *April 30, 2009*

Attending: Anke Mueller-Solger (IEP), Ryan Olah (USFWS), Fred Feyrer (USBR), Steven Detwiler (USFWS), Mike Chotkowski (USBR), Ted Sommer (CDWR), Cay Goude (USFWS).

Agenda:

- 1) CalFed Science Program independent peer review
- 2) May workshop content and coverage
- 3) HSG Schedule check
- 4) IEP/POD coverage and integration (from retreat)
- 5) Next steps/Action items/next meeting date

1) For the peer review, Anke talked with Lauren Hastings. They are happy to help, and request a meeting with the appropriate parties to discuss timing and particulars. This includes the objectives of the peer review, the scope and timing. Money may or may not be an issue (bond money forthcoming), but if not that then it was agreed that hopefully USBR and CDWR could cover the costs. We will use the next Thursday time slot (Lauren's schedule depending) to handle this particular issue.

2) May workshop coverage: We agreed that the workshop should present the following products:

- A) A draft conceptual model
- B) List of study questions
- C) Initial list of studies (examples)
- D) Final schedule
- E) A clear and collective vision for the integration of the HSG study with POD and IEP
- F) A mechanism for implementation of the adaptive management process

We talked about having time in the afternoon for subgroup discussion(s).

Note: The new date for the workshop is June 8, in the FWS conference room A/B, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2617 all day, to include appropriate time for discussion.

3) Schedule check.

The current schedule is attached below.

Smelt Habitat Study Group Schedule

Document/Event	Due Date	Notes
Framework Plan	Feb-09	Completed
Form HSG	Feb-09	Completed
Questions formulation	Mar-09	initiated
Conceptual model	June 8 2009	initiated
Workplan outline	June 8 2009	begun 4/15/09, notes forthcoming
Initial Public Workshop	June 8 2009	booked 2800 Cottage FWS Conference Room A/B
Peer Review convenes	Summer 2009	Anke to engage Science Pgm
Admin Draft Study Plan	Aug-09	1 week IEP agency review
Draft Study Plan	Aug-09	<i>release to coincide with mtg</i>
Draft Plan public meeting	Aug-09	<i>presenting plan for comment</i>
Agency/Stakeholder review	Sep-09	3-4 weeks
Independent Peer Review	Sep-09	3-4 weeks
Admin Draft Final Workplan	Nov-09	4 week turnaround
HSG Response to technical input peer reviewed	late-Nov 2009	2 week turnaround
Final Plan released	15-Dec-09	Draft + peer review
Implementation	2010-ongoing	adaptive mgmt

4) IEP/POD integration discussion

We engaged in the discussion that was tabled at the retreat. The issue before us is the scope of the HSG study. Should it be exactly what is presented in the BO or could the studies be more extensive in scope? Can it include studies broader than just fall X2 that are important for the overall POD?

It was pointed out that POD should continue as proposed, and the HSG needs to meet the BO action. The group reached consensus that, while it is clearly preferable to do “more” as this is all interrelated (see the conceptual model), additional work should be through the POD and with additional money. The HSG should not be the mechanism for additional research money and it should not interfere with the progress of the larger POD investigation. The HSG and associated regulatory oversight needs to be clearly aligned with the BO. The group believes it is possible to achieve this through coordinated planning and the common members (Anke, Fred, Ted, Bruce).

Some of this will be clarified with the IEP coordinators and directors in the near future, but the HSG just needs to be clear by the June workshop so there is not any misunderstanding or confusion.

5) Next Steps/Action Items

- **Anke** will check with Lauren and let the group know. Probably a meeting downtown tentative Thursday May 7 1PM @ Moss Bldg.
- **Fred, Bruce and Steve** are working on the next round of products out of the retreat for group discussion electronically.
- **All:** Any comments on schedule, please get back to Steve ASAP
- There will be a call in two weeks (Thursday May 14) and tentatively a face-to-face meeting when Wim is available (Thursday May 21 all day?) to progress and prepare for the June workshop. **All:** Let Steve know if available May 21 for all day meeting.